

Remarks/Arguments:

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 are pending; Claims 1, 8, and 15 are amended; and no claims are newly added or canceled herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment, as support for this amendment may be found in the specification, for example, at page 4, line 23 - page 5, line 9, page 20, line 21 - page 21, line 7, page 23, lines 1-10, page 24, line 22 - page 25, line 2, page 18, lines 9-22, and Figures 7 and 10.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3, 7, 8, and 15-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Leu (U.S. Pat. No. 5,930,791) in view Saxton et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,457,013, hereafter Saxton); Claims 4 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Leu and Saxton and further in view of Mitchell et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2001/0042094, hereafter Mitchell); Claims 5, 14, 20, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Leu and Saxton and further in view of Hitchcock et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,345,278, hereafter Hitchcock); and Claims 6 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Leu and Saxton in view of Lysakowski (U.S. Pat. No. 5,434,971).

With regard to the rejection of Claims 1-3, 7, 8, and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Leu in view of Saxton, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1 relates to an analysis related information database for holding analysis related information, wherein the analysis related information is stored in the text-based file format, thereby enabling input into and retrieval directly from the database without data format conversion. Similarly, Claim 8 has been amended to recite an analysis related information database for holding analysis related information, wherein the analysis related information is imported into the database and exported from a remote computer in the text-

based file format, thereby enabling accessing of the analysis related information directly without data format conversion.

The claimed text-based file format, of which non-limiting examples include CSV or XML, is useful as a data format for a tremendous volume of analyzing relating information, and is provided with a header defining a data item identifier for each data item. The text-based file format also functions as a key field for data retrieval of each data item. Therefore, it is possible to input and retrieve the analysis related information directly from the database without data format conversion. Thus, no data format conversion is needed when registering, storing, or retrieving analysis related information, when importing/exporting the analysis related information, as well as when importing/exporting the analysis related information into/from the remote computer system.

Leu describes databases configured on a single memory storage device, namely a hard disc drive.¹ Leu, however, does not disclose or suggest storing information in a text-based file format.

It is respectfully submitted that Saxton fails to remedy this defect of Leu. Saxton relates to data formatting property modifiers. More specifically, the property modifiers of Saxton are related to document files, such as MSWORD files.² Saxton does not disclose or suggest storing information in a text-based file format in a database. Moreover, because the header of Saxton contains general information regarding the document file and offset information that defines the text range, format information range, the header of Saxton could not function as a data retrieval key for retrieving measuring item information, reagent information, reference sample information, or configuration information of a sample analyzing system.

¹ Leu, col. 4, lines 27-30.

² Saxton, col. 9, lines 25-28.

Accordingly, as neither Leu nor Saxton, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the text-based file format of Claims 1 and 8, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 and 8 patentably distinguish over any combination of Leu and Saxton. Likewise, it is respectfully submitted that dependent Claims 2, 3, and 7 patentably distinguish over Leu and Saxton for the reasons above-noted with regard to Claim 1.

Claim 15 has been amended to recite that each backed up piece of information is provided with tag information identifying at least one of analyzing device, time stamp, and correction information. By displaying this tag information on the backup operation screen, the operator is able to select desired backup information to carry out the recovery operation in an efficient manner. Also by displaying this tag information on the backup operation screen, backup operations may be carried out through both a local console and a remote computer.³

Neither Leu nor Saxton, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the use of any type of tag information. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 15 patentably distinguishes over the applied combination of Leu and Saxton. Likewise, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 16-19 patentably distinguish over Leu and Saxton for the reasons above-noted with regard to Claim 15.

Consequently, as neither Leu nor Saxton, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the features recited in independent Claims 1, 8, and 15, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of Claims 1-3, 7, 8, and 15-19 be withdrawn.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 4 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Leu in view of Saxton and further in view of Mitchell, that rejection is also traversed.

³ Specification, page 18, lines 10-22.

Claims 1 and 8, from which Claims 4 and 13 respectively depend, are believed to distinguish over Leu and Saxton as earlier noted. Accordingly, the outstanding rejection of Claims 4 and 13 has been rendered moot by the present amendment.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 5, 14, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Leu, Saxton, and Hitchcock, that rejection is also traversed.

Claim 5 depends from Claim 1, Claim 14 depends from Claim 8, and Claims 20 and 21 depend from Claim 15. As noted above, Claims 1, 8, and 15 patentably distinguish over the applied combination of Leu and Saxton. As a result, the outstanding rejection of Claims 5, 14, 20, and 21 has been rendered moot by the present amendment.

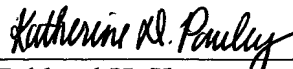
With regard to the rejection of Claims 6 and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of Leu, Saxton, and Lysakowski, that rejection is also traversed. Claim 6 depends from Claim 1, and Claims 9-12 depend from Claim 8.

As noted above, Claims 1 and 8 patentably distinguish over the applied combination of Leu and Saxton. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 and 8 recite features additionally distinguishing over Lysakowski, such as a text-based file format. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 6 and 9-12 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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